ST. ASAPH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

for the

Year Ending 31st December, 1958

by the

Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. R. RHYDWEN)

and

Public Health Inspector

(Mr R. P. BARLOW)

Printed at the "Free Press" Office, Denbigh.

ST. ASAPH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1958

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for 1958 completed in accordance with Circular 22/58 Wales.

The year 1958 was another disappointing year climatically, the most prominent and memorable feature being an extremely wet summer. However, it was a relatively healthy year for most of the inhabitants of the Rural District.

Infectious Disease cases totalled 39, a decrease of 58 on 1957, due mainly to there being no major outbreak of disease during the year.

No case of Poliomyelitis was notified in the district during the year, and once more no case of Diphtheria occurred in the district during the year. It is 8 years since we had a case of confirmed Diphtheria in the Rural District.

The General Health Statistics of the district were very satisfactory, there being only two infant deaths debited to the district during the year.

135 births were credited to the Rural District during the year, this being a decrease of 17 births on 1957. This gave the district a crude birth rate of 12.64 births per 1,000 of the population and a comparative birth rate for 1958 of 15.55 births per 1,000 of the population. This latter figure is for comparison with the national rate of 16.4 births per 1,000 of the population. The need for a comparative figure is due to the excess of males in the district.

123 deaths were debited to the Rural District during 1958, giving us a death rate of 11.5 deaths per 1,000 of the population. Corrected for comparative purposes, the rate was 10.9 deaths per 1,000 of the population as compared with the national rate of 11.7 deaths per 1,000 of the population.

The two infant deaths gave the district an Infant Mortality Rate of 14.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, which can be regarded as most satisfactory when compared with the national rate of 22.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.

As I have said on several previous occasions, we are dealing with small numbers, and, indeed, one actual infant death represents 7.4 deaths per 1,000 live births, so that a small variation in the actual number of deaths has a very large effect on our rate.

The district's Cancer Rate at 1.68 deaths per 1,000 of the population

is below the national rate of 2.38 deaths per 1,000 of the population. Heart Disease, which caused 44 deaths, was the biggest killer. This year, incidentally, was the third consecutive year in which we have had no death attributable to Tuberculosis.

During the year 18 Council houses and 11 private houses were completed. The majority of the Council houses completed were used for re-housing under the Council's slum clearance programme.

The Council's water enterprise continued to function admirably and has reduced the work that used to be entailed in maintaining an equitable water supply to various parishes almost to zero.

In conclusion, I should like to tender my thanks to the Clerk, the Sanitary Surveyor, the Public Health Inspector, the Chief Financial Officer, together with the other Council officials, for their co-operation and ready assistance during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. RHYDWEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	22,300 acres
Population at 1951 Census	9,860
Population Registrar General's Estimate mid-1958	10,680
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book	2,827
Rateable Value	£91,591

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA IN 1958

Water

The distribution of water in the Rural District is now as follows: BODELWYDDAN, RHUDDLAN and St. Asaph are supplied by the Rhyl Urban District Council's Water Undertaking.

DYSERTH: The greater part of the parish is supplied by the Prestatyn Urban District Council's Water Undertaking.

BRYNIAU, Dyserth, is supplied from the mains of the Holywell Rural District Council's Water Undertaking, as it is a high level area.

BODFARI, CWM, TREMEIRCHION, RHUALLT and WAEN are now supplied with water by the St. Asaph Rural District Council's new water mains, the water supplied coming from the Rhyl mains. This means that now the whole of the Rural District has an adequate and safe water supply.

Properties supplied with water by the Council's undertaking:—

	Total No. of Houses.	Number supplied with water (a) into Houses.	(b) Stand Pipes.
Cwm	131	127	5
Bodfari	125	113	2
Dymeirchion	190	141	10
Waen	83	83	Nil

Drainage and Sewerage

St. Asaph, Rhuddlan, Dyserth and Bodelwyddan have satisfactory Sewage Disposal System. Apart from small septic tank systems attached to individual groups of Council houses, the remainder of the district has no sewage disposal system.

Camping Sites

The Maesgwilym Camp, the Pleasant View Camp, and the Vale of Clwyd Holiday Camp, Rhuddlan, are licensed for the Summer months only. In addition a strip of land at Cwybr Fawr Farm has been licensed for a number of caravans, as decided by the Council to be sited on it during the summer.

The water supply to these camps is satisfactory, as are the general standards of hygiene maintained at the Camps.

Rivers and Streams

No pollution of rivers and streams was reported in 1958.

Closet Accommodation

In the areas supplied with sewers, very few privies remain. In the remainder of the district 10% of the houses have privies with fixed receptacles and 90% privies with movable receptacles. The Council have arrangements for the removal of the night soil in certain areas.

Public Cleansing

Refuse is removed from all parishes in the Rural District by the Council's Refuse Lorries.

Shops and Offices

No action was required in respect of shops and offices during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No action was required in 1958.

Schools

No closure due to outbreaks of infectious disease was required during 1958.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination

83 children under one year of age, 28 children between the ages of one and four years, and five children between the ages of five and fifteen years were given their primary immunisation against Diphtheria during 1958. A further 71 children received a reinforcing (boosting) dose.

90 children under the age of one year, 9 children aged one year, 4 children aged two to four years, 3 children aged five to fourteen years, together with 11 persons aged fifteen years and over were vaccinated against smallpox. In addition, a further 93 persons were re-vaccinated against smallpox.

Venereal Diseases

Treatment is available at the following Clinics:—

Wrexham and East Denbighshire War Memorial Hospital:—

Males: Monday, 5—7 p.m., and Wednesday, 4—6 p.m.

Females: Friday, 5—7 p.m.

Chester Royal Infirmary:—

Males: Wednesday, 5—7 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

Females: Monday, 5—7 p.m., Thursday, 5—7 p.m.

St. Asaph Hospital:—

Males and Females, 5.30—7 p.m.

The treatment is confidential, free and inclusive of travelling expenses.

Tuberculosis

The Welsh Regional Board has a Chest Clinic at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl, for the treatment and investigation of cases or suspected cases of Tuberculosis. The Clinic is held on Friday mornings for new cases and on Friday afternoon, 2.30 p.m.—4.30 p.m. for Pneumo thorax treatment.

The nearest Sanatoria are at Llangwyfan and Pen-y-Ffordd.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The Flintshire County Council holds Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics in the Rural District as follows:—

Mobile Clinic:—

At St. Asaph on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month in the Council Office grounds at 2 p.m.

At Rhuddlan on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month in front of the War Memorial Club at 2 p.m.

At Dyserth on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month in the grounds of the Urdd Hall at 2 p.m.

A Clinic is held in the Camp at Bodelwyddan on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 2 p.m.

Smallpox

In the event of an outbreak of Smallpox, provision can be made for the isolation and treatment of cases by arrangement with the Flintshire County Council and the Welsh Regional Board.

Disinfection

The disinfection of large articles such as bedding can be carried out through arrangements made by the Sanitary Surveyor with the Rhyl Urban District Council.

Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

No action was required to be taken under this Section of the Act during 1958.

Housing

During 1958 the following numbers of Houses were completed and occupied:—

	For the Local Authority.	Private Houses.
Bodelwyddan	—	3
Dyserth	—	1
Rhuddlan	—	5
St. Asaph	18	2
Total	18	11

Vital Statistics

Live Births	135 (70 Males, 65 Females)
Live Births (illegitimate)	7 (1 Male, 6 Females)
Live Birth Rate, per 1,000 population	12.64
Still Births	2
Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 live and still births	7.4
Total Live and Still Births	137
Infant Deaths	2
Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births	14.8
Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births (legitimate)	14.9
Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births (Illegitimate)	0
Illegitimate Birth Rate per cent of total live births	5.47%
Maternal Deaths	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live and still births	Nil
Neo Natal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births	14.8
Death Rate, per 1,000 of the population	11.53 deaths

Infectious Diseases

39 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during 1958. These were comprised of:—

Scarlet Fever	3 cases
Whooping Cough	9 cases
Measles	15 cases
Pneumonia	12 cases

Zymotic Mortality

Eight deaths were attributed to Pneumonia and one to Influenza.

Tuberculosis

No deaths were attributed to any form of Tuberculosis. Cases on the Tuberculosis Register:—

Dec. 31st, 1957	Pulmonary	76	Non-Pulmonary	19
Dec. 31st, 1958	Pulmonary	78	Non-Pulmonary	19

Heart Disease

There were 29 male deaths and 15 female deaths attributed to Heart Disease, being a total of 44 deaths.

Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions

There were 27 deaths from this cause, 12 of them being of males and 15 of females.

Cancer

18 deaths were attributed to Cancer, 9 being deaths of males and 9 deaths of females.

TABLE 2

	CAUSE OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	3
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	3
15.	Leucaemia	0	1
16.	Diabetes	1	0
17.	Vascular Disease of Nervous System	12	15
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	18	5
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	3
20.	Other Heart Disease	10	7
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	0	5
22.	Influenza	0	1
23.	Pneumonia	3	5
24.	Bronchitis	5	3
25.	Other Disease of Respiratory System	1	0
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	1
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	1	5
33.	Motor Accidents	3	0
	TOTAL	64	59

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the Year 1958

GENERAL INFORMATION

Water Supplies

No major works have been carried out affecting the water supply of the district, but approximately 700 yards of old 1″ main at Tremeirchion was replaced by 2″ asbestos pipes. The soft character of the mains water supply caused some discolouration of the water at Cwm and Bodfari. The discolouration was removed by increasing the pH value at the source of supply.

Refuse Removal

The amount of refuse requiring collection has risen considerably with the spate of post-war housing. As a result, discussions took place as to the advisability of obtaining an additional collection vehicle, and a Committee was appointed to enquire into the question of an additional tip.

Housing

The Council's slum clearance programme has now reached the stage where it is obvious that the figure of 119 unfit dwellings to be dealt with in the first five-year period will be easily exceeded. Since September 1955 a total of 96 houses have been represented as being unfit for human habitation, and of this number 11 houses have now been reconditioned and made fit for human habitation.

At this stage the problem of dealing with farm houses which are unfit for human habitation will have to be faced. Some farm houses are in such a state that they should properly be included for action in the first five-year period. It is obvious, however, that occupants of farm houses cannot be rehoused in a Council housing estate. For the proper conduct of farming operations, a house must be provided on or near the farm. As there is no special provision in the Housing Acts for such rehousing, it would be difficult for a local authority to provide such a dwelling.

Housing Acts 1949 and 1954

It is interesting to note that of the twenty-two applications for improvement grants received during the year, seven were in respect of houses subject of Closing Orders or on the Council's list of houses unfit for human habitation. All applications received were approved for grant aid.

Camping

Two applications to develop land for camping purposes were received

during the year. One application was to extend an existing 13-acre camping site to accommodate 160 caravans, the other application was for a new caravan site to accommodate 98 caravans. Both applications were pproved. No new licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, were issued. There are now 9 licensed camping sites in the district. With the exception of one camping site, the camps were maintained in a satisfactory manner. Complaints of lack of cleanliness were made in respect of one camping site, and steps were taken to remedy the complaints.

Factories and Workshops

No new factories were opened during the year, although extensions were made in one of the larger factories. The number on the register was reduced to 64 as the result of closure to two factory premises. No complaints were received regarding the factories in the district.

Dwellings

No. of dwellings represented as being unfit for human habitation	19
No. of dwellings included in Clearance Areas and made subject to a Clearance Order	Nil
No. of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
No. of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made	15
No. of dwellings in respect of which proposals for reconditioning to a standard fit for human habitation were accepted	4

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

A noticeable feature of rodent control work during the year has been the attention given to inspections and treatment of infestations on farms. A total of 270 inspections were made compared to the previous year's figure of only five inspections. Again it was noted that the sewers in the district were remarkably free from rat infestation. Although treatment was necessary at one sewage disposal plant, the infestation was from a nearby river bank.

Number of farms inspected	270
Number of farms found to be infested	26
Number of business premises inspected	113
Number of business premises found to be infested	8
Number of dwelling houses inspected	93
Number of dwelling houses found to be infested	8

Infectious Diseases

Number of cases inquired into, including Scabies	3
Number of Houses Disinfected	3

Drainage, etc.

Number laid or re-laid	32
Number of choked and defective drains	23
Number of New Water Closets	37
Number of Privies converted into W.C.s	8

Scavenging

Number of Pail Closets emptied	676
Number of Ashbins emptied	58154
Number of loads of refuse	1146
Number of Tons of Refuse	3438

Refuse

Number of accumulations removed	Nil
Number of notices in respect of new Bins	29

Water

Number of new connections made (all purposes)	4
Number of repairs, fittings, etc.	270

Offensive Trades

Number of Knacker's Yards	1

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

Number of Licences to Slaughter issued	5

Food Premises

All new food premises opened during the year complied with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

In existing food premises, contraventions of the Regulations were noted, particularly as regards food storage. It is hard to understand why shopkeepers should store dog and cat food in metal racks well above floor level, whilst sacks of vegetables for human consumption are left on the floor to risk fouling by any passing dog.

All contraventions were dealt with verbally or by informal notice. No prosecutions were required to enforce compliance with the Regulations.

No. of Cafes and Hotels in the district	30
No. of Licensed Premises	29
No. of Grocer's Shops	43
No. of Greengrocer's Shops including nurseries	14
No. of Butcher's Shops	8
No. of Bakehouses	7
No. of Sweet Confectionery Shops	14
No. of Fishmonger's Shops	3
No. of Fried Fish Shops	4
No. of School Canteens	10
No. of registered food premises in the district	52
No. of inspections made	130

All the butchers' shops are registered for the manufacture of sausages.

Ice Cream

No. of premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream ...	2
No. of premises registered for the sale of ice cream	44
No. of new registrations	4
No. of samples taken	48
Samples in Category 1	39
Samples in Category 2	3
Samples in Category 3	3
Samples in Category 4	3

Dairies

No. of dealers licensed	28
No. of dealer's premises in the district	26
No. of dealer's premises inspected	33

Abatement of Nuisances

Number of Preliminary Notices served	13
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	2
Number of Abatement Notices served	2
Number of Abatement Notices complied with	2
Number of Prosecutions	Nil

Food Inspection

The very wet weather experienced during the year was the primary cause of a high incidence of liver fluke disease in cattle and sheep in the district, resulting in a large amount of liver being condemned at the slaughterhouse.

The number of animals slaughtered in the district continues to rise, 9,068 animals were slaughtered during the year, an increase of 742 on the number slaughtered in 1957.

There was only one case of Cysticerus Boris detected on inspection this year; the carcase and offal were refrigerated for 21 days before being released for human consumtion.

The total weight of meat condemned as being unfit for human consumption was 1 ton 12 cwts. 3 qrs. 22 lbs. Details of post-mortem inspections of all animals is given in the following table.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED FOR THE YEAR 1958

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed	549	17	9	7868	625	—
Number inspected	549	17	9	7868	625	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	23	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	224	9	—	382	26	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	40.9%	52.9%	—	5.1%	4.4%	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	—	—	—	5	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected by Tuberculosis	1.4%	—	—	—	0.8%	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Food and Drugs

Article.	No. of Samples taken.	Genuine.	Not genuine or below standard.
Milk	14	14	—
Dairy Products	4	4	—
Ice Cream and Lollies	3	3	—
Vegetables and Fruit	3	3	—
Alcoholic Drinks	3	3	—
Sausages	3	3	—
Miscellaneous Foods	6	6	—
Total	36	36	—

DETAILS OF FOOD CERTIFIED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Description.	Number.	Number lbs.
Cooked Ham (Jugoslavia)	7 tins	42
Pork Shoulder (Holland)	1 tin	11
Pork Luncheon Meat (Holland)	1 tin	1
Bacon (Denmark)	1 carton	28
Corned Beef (Argentine)	2 tins	7
Sausage		6
Black Pudding		1
Haddock Fillets	6 cases	120
Cod Fillets	1 case	14
New Jersey Potatoes	11 barrels	756
Irish Potatoes	9 bags	672

Total weight condemned — 14 cwts. 2 qrs. 34 lbs.

RAIN GAUGE

Diameter of funnel — 5 inches.

Height at top above ground — 12 inches.

Height of ground above sea level — 195 feet.

Rhyl's Rrainfall — 10 years average.

Average Rainfall for 10 years, in inches, is as follows:—

1949	—	21.31	1954	—	30.90
1950	—	25.67	1955	—	19.00
1951	—	29.96	1956	—	26.12
1952	—	22.40	1957	—	26.60
1953	—	20.39	1958	—	31.25

Yearly average for 10 years — 25.36.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections by Sanitary Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	M/c line number (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Number of Written Notices (5)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	M/c line number (7)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	25	12	Nil	Nil	1
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	35	49	Nil	Nil	2
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	6	14	Nil	Nil	3
TOTAL		66	75	Nil	Nil	

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases')

PARTICULARS (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred: To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred: By H.M. Inspector (6)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c. line No. (8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)— (a) Insufficient	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	Nil	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	
TOTAL		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUT WORK

Section 110. (Sections 110 and 111). Section 111.

Nature of Work	M/c. line No.	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel:—							
Making, etc.	1	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and Washing...	13	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
			OTHER OUTWORK—'NIL'				